

ARPIT GAIND

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Education

Ph.D. Candidate (ABD), Culture and Performance — Department of World Arts and Cultures/Dance, UCLA School of Arts and Architecture | Expected 2027

Dissertation and coursework concentrated in visual anthropology, documentary media, and archival studies.

Dissertation: *Indigenous Interfaces: Visual Sovereignty, Digital Archives, and Adivasi Mediascapes in Jharkhand, India*

Committee: Prof. Aparna Sharma (Chair), Prof. David Shorter, Prof. Anurima Banerji, Prof. Michelle Caswell

Graduate Certificates — UCLA: Digital Humanities; Writing Pedagogy. Oral History Institute, UC Berkeley: Oral Histories (2023–25)

M.Phil., Development Studies — Ambedkar University Delhi (2015–2018)

M.A., Development Studies — Ambedkar University Delhi (2012–2014)

B.A., History and Theater — University of Delhi (2009–2012)

Language Proficiency

English: Native/Bilingual Proficiency · Hindi: Native/Bilingual Proficiency · Sadri/Nagpuri: Advanced Field Research Proficiency · Mundari/Kudukh: Working Proficiency (for analyzing media texts)

Research Interests

Media and Documentary Studies; Critical Geography; Technology and Society; Post-colonial Studies; Politics of Representation; Indigenous and Ethnic Studies; Digital Humanities; Community Archives; South Asian Studies; Writing and Pedagogy

Research Skills

Video and ethnographic film production; data visualization; digital mapping; community archives and curation; advanced graduate writing.

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Articles and Essays

Gaind, A. (2020). "Becoming through Film (Making): Politics of Contingency and Re-Presentation." *Journal of Practical Philosophy*, 1(1): 106–118.

Book Chapters and Editorial Volumes (Peer Reviewed)

Gaind, A. (Forthcoming, Winter 2026). "Cameras as Drums, Dance as Maps: Decolonial Visions in Adivasi Media Production in Jharkhand." In *Reimagining Work, Workers and Workplaces: Decolonial and Intersectional Contestations* (Vol. 1), eds. M. Banday, A. Dixit, and M. Amacker. UK: Palgrave Macmillan.

Gaind, A. (Forthcoming, Winter 2026). "Can the Adivasi Create? The 'Subject' of Adivasi Media Production." In *A Media Anthropology of India*, eds. P. Raghunath and H. Narasimhan. Delhi: Routledge.

Gaind, A. (2022). "Politics of Representation: Locating Marginalization of Tribals through Film (making)." In *Understanding Socio-Economic Marginalization and Tribal Issues*, ed. Mohinder Slariya, 163–179. New Delhi: Mittal

Publications.

Digital & Multimedia Publications

Gaind, A. "Adivasi Visual Sovereignty and the Digital Mediascape," Portfolio Exhibit (2022).

"Politics of Other(ing): 'Remembering' and 'Forgetting' the Indigenous," Blog Post, Critical Theory and Information Studies ([February 7, 2022](#)).

"On Becoming Ho: Remembering, Repeating and Working Through," NEWSREACH, vol. 18, no. 1 ([February 2018](#)): 23–28.

[Module Reading Lists on Indigeneity](#), American Indian Culture and Research Journal (AICRJ), UCLA.

Book Reviews

Review of *The Middle Ages and the Movies* by Robert Bartlett. *Comitatus: A Journal of Medieval and Renaissance Studies* 55 (2024): 270–272.

Review of *Chaucer and the Ethics of Time* by Gillian Adler. *Comitatus: A Journal of Medieval and Renaissance Studies* 54 (2023): 199–200.

Review of *Imaging Culture: Photography in Mali, West Africa* by Candace M. Keller. *Journal of Folklore Research Reviews* (June 2023).

Editorial Work

2026 | Lead Editor, *Comitatus: A Journal of Medieval and Renaissance Studies*, vol. 57, UCLA CMRS Center for Early Global Studies

2026 | [Editorial Assistant](#), *The Oxford Handbook of Indian Dance*, eds. A. Banerji and P. Purkayastha, Oxford University Press

2024 | [Editorial Assistant](#), *Race and Yoga* 8, no. 1 (T. Blu Wakpa)

2023–24 | Editorial Board Member, *Comitatus*, [Vol. 54](#) | [Vol. 55](#)

2018–2021 | Editorial Assistant, *Jugalbandi: BJP before Modi* (Vinay Sitapati)

Translation and Transcription

2021 | Prof. Anurima Banerji, UCLA — [Dimensions and Dynamics of Sharing Dance in India: A Conversation](#). DOI: 10.14361/9783839462379-003

2015 | Philosophy of Education Conference, Azim Premji University, Bangalore

2017 | Centre of Research and Dissemination (CORD), India — under Dr. Meera Samson

Multi-Modal Productions

Gaind, A. & Caswell, M. "Community Archive and Digital Archive Practices," Podcast Conversation/Media Essay (2022)

Director/Editor: [Ayangraji](#) (2021)

Director/Producer: [Envisioning Development Practice](#) (2019); [Chinhari — the Young India](#) (2019); [Inoculating Lac](#) (2019)

Curator: [Ways of Seeing](#) (2021)

Fellowships & Awards

External & International

American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS) Fellowship (2026-27), \$7,000

Charlotte Williams Scholarship, 2026-27, \$8,300

Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Travel Grant, Vancouver (2026), \$500

Elaine Krown Klein Scholarship (2024–2025), \$6,069

Clifton Webb Scholarship of the Arts (2022 and 2024), \$5,000

Polly Nooter Roberts Graduate Research Fellowship (2022–2023), \$935

Research Student Award, 28th European Conference on South Asian Studies (ECSAS, 2025), non-monetary

Emerging Scholar Award, Arts in Society Conference, Zaragoza, Spain (2022), stay and registration

Emerging Scholar Award, The Image Conference, Hong Kong (2018), stay and registration

University Level | UCLA

Collegium of University Teaching Fellows (CUTF) Fellowship, 2026-27, \$18,000

UCLA Graduate Leadership Academy, Inaugural Cohort (2026), non-monetary

Dr. Sambhi Memorial Summer Fellowship, CISA (2024 and 2025), \$6,000; \$2,000

School of Arts and Architecture Scholarship (2024; 2026), \$3,085; \$2,402

Dissertation Fieldwork Fellowship, UCLA International Institute (2023; 2024), \$2,000; \$1,000

Graduate Summer Research Funding (GSRM), \$6,000

Summer Mentorship Research Funding (SMRF), 2022, \$6,000

Graduate Division Merit Award, Graduate Division (2021–2025), \$30,735 (cumulative)

Conference Presentations, Roundtables & Panels

2026: “Palimpsests of the Ocular: Adivasi (Indigenous) Media Sovereignty at the Nexus of Transnational Media Networks in India.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS), Montreal.

2026: “Reclaiming the Ocular: Adivasi Cinema, Global Indigenous Media Sovereignty, and the Struggle for Visual Self-Determination in Jharkhand, India.” Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Conference, Vancouver, Canada.

2026: “Reclaiming the Ocular: Adivasi Cinema and Transnational Indigenous Media Networks in South Asia’s Decolonial Mediascapes.” Global Asia Conference, UC Irvine.

2026: Roundtable Leader, USC Writing Symposium, University of Southern California.

2025: “Naachi Se Baanchi: Decolonial Cinema and Indigenous Visual Sovereignty in Contemporary India.” 28th European Conference on South Asian Studies (ECSAS).

2025: “Screening the Adivasis (Indigenous): Disassembling Visions and Voices of Indigenous Media Production in India.” Visible Evidence XXXI, Philadelphia.

2024: Discussant, “**Merging Horizons: Visual Anthropology, Indigenous Communities, and the Work of Online Media Archives.**” Royal Anthropological Institute (RAI), London.

2022: “Reimagining Gaze: Politics of Community Media and Film Making in India.” Arts in Society Conference, Spain.

2020: Panel Chair, Making the Subject: Interdisciplinary Explorations. School of Human Studies, Ambedkar University Delhi.

2018: “Remembering through Film (Making).” The Image Conference, Hong Kong.

2018: “On Becoming Ho: Not (just) a Film.” Deleuze India Conference, Chennai.

2016: “Hum, Tum, and Transformation.” Transformative Rural Development Conference, India International Centre, New Delhi.

Research Experience

Graduate Student Researcher | UCLA | 2021–2024

Prof. Dan Froot (Winter–Fall 2024); Prof. David Shorter (Winter & Spring 2023); Prof. Anurima Banerji (2021–ongoing)

Research Assistant | UCLA | 2019

Assisted Prof. Sandipto Dasgupta on *Legalizing the Revolution*: archival research and data synthesis on constitutional history and Indigenous rights.

Project Researcher | Centre for Development Practice (Ford Foundation & Ambedkar University) | 2018–2021

Research Curator: collaborated on a multi-year project on culturally sensitive filmmaking and media documentation in the Indigenous belt of Eastern India.

Curator (2019–2021): curated film projects and website content for the [Ways of Seeing](#) Indigenous media archive.

Research Associate (2013–2014)

ICSSR Project with Prof. Sumangala Damodaran on migration and industrial work.

University Teaching Experience

Primary Instructor (Curriculum Design, Lead Instruction and Grading)

Critical Media Literacy | UCLA | Undergraduate Writing Seminar | Spring 2025, Spring 2026

Video Skills and Techniques | UCLA | Summer 2025, Summer 2026; 2022–23

Rural Through Art, Literature, and Film | Ambedkar University Delhi | Fall 2020

Secondary Instructor / Teaching Fellow

Data Justice and Society (Interdisciplinary Cluster) | Prof. Miriam Posner and Prof. Juliet Williams | UCLA | 2024–2026

Documenting Culture | Prof. Aparna Sharma | UCLA | Fall 2023

Field Research Methods | Prof. Alex Flynn | UCLA | Winter 2023

Politics of Development; Political Ideologies; Anthropology of Work | Ashoka University | 2017–2021

Pedagogical Leadership and Advanced Training

Teaching Assistant Consultant (TAC), Graduate Division | UCLA | 2025–2026 — Facilitated the Graduate Teaching Assistant Seminar, addressing inclusive grading, curriculum design, and classroom management.

Evaluations

Student Evaluations: selected anonymous reviews available upon request.

Teaching Observation: Seminar class (Spring 2025, UCLA) by Dr. Peggy Davis.

Service & Institutional Leadership

Chair, Communications Board, ASUCLA (2025–Present)

Graduate Member, Graduate Leadership Academy, UCLA (2026)

Vice-Chair, Communications Board, ASUCLA (2024–2025)

Chair & Lead Organizer, Graduate Student Conference on South Asia, CISA, UCLA (2025–2026)

Graduate Liaison, Faculty Search Committee, Dept. of WAC/D, UCLA (2022–2023)

Member, Professional Development Committee, UCLA (2021–2023)

Student Faculty Coordinator (M.Phil.), School of Human Studies, Ambedkar University Delhi (2015–2017)

Student Faculty Coordinator (M.A.), School of Development Studies, Ambedkar University Delhi (2013–2014)

Conference Organizing

2026, Conference Chair, Annual Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference on South Asia, [Center for India and South Asia \(CISA\)](#), [UCLA](#)

2024 and 2025, Conference Organizer, Annual Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference on South Asia, CISA, UCLA

2021, Conference Organizer, Critical Media Conference of the Americas (CMLCA)

2020, Panel Chair, Making the Subject: Interdisciplinary Explorations, Ambedkar University Delhi

2017–18, Conference Organizer & Researcher, Conversations with Ramachandra Guha, Ashoka University & Oxford University Press

Professional Affiliations

Association for Asian Studies (AAS); American Anthropological Association (AAA); Center for India and South Asia (CISA), UCLA; European Council for South Asian Studies (ECSAS); European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA); Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS)

References

Professor Aparna Sharma, UCLA | aparnasharma@arts.ucla.edu

Professor Anurima Banerji, UCLA | anurima@arts.ucla.edu

Professor David Shorter, UCLA | shorter@ucla.edu

Professor Michelle Caswell, UCLA | caswell@gseis.ucla.edu

Professor Vinay Sitapati, Ashoka University, India | vinay.sitapati@ashoka.edu.in